



# Sierra Pacific Industries

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April 7, 2014

Steve Collins  
Sheriff's Sergeant  
Butte County Sheriff  
33 County Center Drive  
Orville, CA. 95965

Dear Sergeant Collins:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your department's pending grant application to the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission. (OHV Commission)

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is a family owned company in the business of growing and harvesting forest products. SPI is a Northern California company employing more than 4000 people in rural communities. Thousands of additional jobs are created as a result of SPI's forest management and manufacturing activities. SPI timberlands are managed under the "[Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#)" in order to provide forest products while providing clean water, wildlife habitat and other resource values. To ensure that all natural resources on SPI properties are managed in a sustainable manner, SPI is obligated to follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and all rules and regulations contained in the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973.

The basis for your OHV grant is to provide protection to natural resources and OHV recreational users on lands administered within the boundaries of Lassen National Forest and Plumas National forest. SPI owns significant properties adjacent and within the boundaries of the Plumas and Lassen National Forests.

As a private property owner, SPI is obligated by company policy and California state law to protect such resources from environmental degradation. This includes management of the public's activities on our land to protect water quality, minimizes soil erosion, protect vegetative resources, wildlife habitat and air quality. To safeguard these natural resources values, SPI does not allow recreation activities which we know have a significant negative environmental impact to our property. These protective policies include a prohibition of the unauthorized use of motor vehicles on our private roads and the exclusion of camping or camp fires on SPI properties.

Despite these prohibitions, the illegal use of motor vehicles, especially off-highway vehicles (OHV) continue to cause significant environmental destruction to SPI properties and timber resources. This is especially evident in areas adjacent to the Plumas and Lassen National Forest Lands where OHV use is authorized.

In 2008, SPI properties were impacted by numerous lightning caused fires. Since 2009, SPI has replanted the acreage of our timberlands that were impacted by these fires.

Unfortunately, some of these plantations have been severely impacted in their recovery efforts by the establishment of unauthorized OHV trails traveling off from authorized Federal Lands on the Plumas and Lassen National Forests. These unauthorized OHV trails have killed planted trees and significantly increased sedimentation flow. There are several streams in this area and the sedimentation has also resulted in impacts to water quality.



Many OHV users have utilized SPI private properties as "OHV staging areas". OHV's users will unload their recreation vehicles on SPI properties and utilize SPI private lands to create unauthorized OHV routes of travel or as OHV open areas of travel adjacent to a recent timber plantation site. This illegal activity is adjacent to an authorized OHV trail on the Plumas National Forest. Additionally a large percentage of the illegal campers on SPI properties have OHV recreational vehicles. This illegal camping results in illegal trash dumping, illegal camping and camp fires and wood theft to fuel these camp fires. Several of these illegal camp sites are situated adjacent to fish bearing watercourses. These illegal camp sites result in destruction of riparian vegetation from OHV use which causes the accelerated sedimentation of granitic soils into the nearby watercourses.

SPI has aggressively signed the property to discourage OHV use on SPI lands. Unfortunately, SPI lands are still experiencing significant resource impacts from illegal OHV use.

SPI is requesting that the Butte County Sheriff modify their grant to include Butte County Sheriff's Department patrol on SPI lands adjacent to U.S. Forest Service lands in the Plumas and Lassen National Forest where OHV use is authorized. This patrol would include enforcing private land trespass, illegal camping, illegal campfires, destruction of natural resources from OHV operation as well as other laws and regulations.

SPI supports the efforts of the Butte County Sheriff's Office in their grant request to the OHV Commission to provide law enforcement patrol and search and rescue efforts on the Plumas and Lassen National Forests. As stated, SPI is requesting that the Butte County Sheriff's Office amend their grant proposal to include law enforcement patrol of adjacent private lands where OHV activity is authorized by the U.S. Forest Service.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely;

Steve Roberts  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
District Manager, Stirling District

C.C. California State Parks OHV Commission  
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